

## Message Text

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ACTION ARA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SS-15 SP-02 MMO-01 PER-01 ABF-01  
NSCE-00 OMB-01 OES-07 DOE-15 SOE-02 CIAE-00  
INR-10 NSAE-00 SSO-00 INRE-00 DODE-00 ACDA-12  
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O R 082001Z JUN 78  
FM AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 6009  
INFO AMEMBASSY LA PAZ  
AMEMBASSY LIMA  
AMEMBASSY MONTEVIDEO  
AMEMBASSY SANTIAGO

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 1 OF 3 BUENOS AIRES 4388

E.O. 11652: GDS  
TAGS: AFSP, TGEN, XM, AR  
SUBJECT: SCIENCE ATTACHE PROGRAM AND GLOBAL ISSUES

REF: STATE 118666

1. THE GLOBAL ISSUES DESCRIBED IN THE DEPARTMENT'S  
REFTEL WILL MOSTLY ALL BE OF INCREASING IMPORTANCE TO  
US POLICIES AND INTERESTS IN ARGENTINA OVER THE NEXT FIVE  
TO TEN YEARS. HOWEVER, SOME GLOBAL ISSUES WITH  
SIGNIFICANT SCIENTIFIC CONTENT WILL BE OF HIGHER  
IMPORTANCE FROM THE STANDPOINT OF FUTURE US RELATIONS  
WITH ARGENTINA AND WILL RECEIVE MORE CONCENTRATED ATTENTION  
FROM THE EMBASSY S&T OFFICE.

A. NUCLEAR ENERGY TECHNOLOGY -  
THE COLLECTION, ANALYSIS, AND REPORTING ON ARGENTINA'S  
NUCLEAR ENERGY POLICIES, PROGRAMS, TECHNOLOGIES, AND  
COLLABORATION EFFORTS ARE CURRENTLY THE PRINCIPLE DUTIES  
OF THE SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGICAL COUNSELOR IN ARGENTINA.  
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ARGENTINA, BEING THE LEADING NUCLEAR COUNTRY IN LATIN  
AMERICA, IS NATURALLY OF HIGH INTEREST TO THE USG,  
PARTICULARLY FROM THE STANDPOINT OF NON-PROLIFERATION AND  
SAFEGUARDS. THE US/ARGENTINE AGREEMENT FOR NUCLEAR  
ENERGY COOPERATION IS IN THE PROCESS OF REVIEW IN RELATION  
TO THE NEW US NON-PROLIFERATION ACT. THE PRINCIPLE CONCERN  
OF THE US IS TO ULTIMATELY ACHIEVE APPROPRIATE

INTERNATIONAL SAFEGUARDS ON ALL OF ARGENTINA'S NUCLEAR ACTIVITIES, WHICH COULD LEAD SUBSEQUENTLY TO THE ENHANCEMENT OF NUCLEAR COOPERATION BETWEEN THE US AND ARGENTINA FOR PEACEFUL USES OF ATOMIC ENERGY. THIS WILL REQUIRE A CONTINUOUS ASSESSMENT AND EXAMINATION OF ARGENTINA'S NUCLEAR ENERGY PROGRAM AND A SUSTAINED DIALOGUE CONCERNING PERMANENT INTERNATIONAL SAFEGUARDS. THE MAINTAINING OF OUR COOPERATIVE RELATIONSHIP WITH ARGENTINA WILL ALLOW BETTER POSSIBILITIES TO ACTIVELY WORK TOGETHER FOR THE ACHIEVEMENT OF NON-PROLIFERATION. THE RECENT ARGENTINE DECISION TO RATIFY THE TREATY OF TLAHELCO IS HOPEFULLY A SIGN TOWARD EVENTUAL ACCEPTANCE OF INTERNATIONAL SAFEGUARDS AND THE FIRST STEP IN FOLLOWING THROUGH ONJOINT US/ARGENTINE NUCLEAR DISCUSSIONS.

#### B. ENERGY TECHNOLOGY

ARGENTINA HAS A HIGH INTEREST IN ENERGY TECHNOLOGY. IN FACT, THE GOA HAS RECENTLY GRANTED TOP PRIORITY TO THE ENERGY ISSUE AND HAS DEVELOPED A LONG TERM PROGRAM FOR RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT IN ALL AREAS OF ENERGY RESOURCES. FOSSIL FUELS AND HYDROELECTRIC ENERGY ARE PLANNED TO BE THE MAIN SOURCES OF ELECTRIC POWER FOR THE NEXT 20 YEARS. NUCLEAR ENERGY IS PLANNED TO FILL THE GAP OF 10 PERCENT TO 20 PERCENT OF THE TOTAL ENERGY PROGRAM BY 2000. HOWEVER, THE DEVELOPMENT OF NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES SUCH AS

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SOLAR AND WIND ARE BEING DISCUSSED AS POSSIBLE FUTURE TECHNOLOGIES. ARGENTINA COULD ALSO BE ELIGIBLE FOR THE NEW PILOT PROGRAM OF THE DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY FOR COOPERATION IN THE DEVELOPMENT OF PROJECTS OF ALTERNATIVE ENERGY RESOURCES. THE SCIENCE OFFICE IS GIVING MORE ATTENTION TO THE TOTAL ENERGY PICTURE AND INDIVIDUAL ENERGY TECHNOLOGIES.

#### C. OCEANS -

ARGENTINA IS RICH IN OCEAN RESOURCES WITH A 1600 MILE OCEAN COAST CONTAINING THE PATAGONIA SHELF, WHICH IS CLAIMED TO BE ONE OF THE LAST VIRGIN FISHING AREAS LEFT IN THE WORLD. COOPERATION WITH NOAA ON THE OCEAN ATMOSPHERIC SURVEYS BY SATELLITE, MARINE SANCTUARY PROGRAMS, AND FISHING AGREEMENTS BETWEEN THE US AND ARGENTINA ARE INTERESTING POSSIBILITIES FOR THE FUTURE. ARGENTINA'S POSITIVE POSITION ON THE 10-YEAR WHALING MORATORIUM TO BE PROPOSED AT THE INTERNATIONAL WHALING COMMISSION MEETING THIS YEAR SUPPORTS THE US POSITION. REPORTING ON US INTERESTS AND OPPORTUNITIES IN THESE AREAS SHOULD BE INCREASED.

D. ANTARCTICA -

ARGENTINA'S GEOGRAPHIC LOCATION AND HIGH ACTIVE INTEREST IN THE ANTARCTIC CONTINENT HAS LEAD, OVER THE YEARS, TO THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A NUMBER OF BASES AND RESEARCH STATIONS ON THE CONTINENT AS WELL AS CONVENIENT TRANSPORTATION SYSTEMS. THE SCIENCE OFFICE MAINTAINS LIAISON WITH THE MFA DIVISION OF ANTARCTICA AND MALVINAS ON MATTERS RELATED TO US INTERESTS IN THE ANTARCTIC WHERE ARGENTINA IS CONCERNED. THE SCIENCE OFFICE IS ALSO COORDINATOR FOR THE NATIONAL SCIENCE FOUNDATION POLAR RESEARCH COLLABORATIVE PROGRAMS WITH THE ARGENTINE ANTARCTIC INSTITUTE AND NAVAL HYDROGRAPHIC INSTITUTE.

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E. ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION -

ACTIVITIES IN THIS AREA RELATED TO OCEANS AND THE ANTARCTIC ARE STATED ABOVE AND THE UPPER ATMOSPHERE PROGRAM IS STATED BELOW. HOWEVER, THE CONTROL OF MARINE POLLUTION, FRESH WATER PROBLEMS, SOLID WASTE DISPOSAL, AIR POLLUTION, OCCUPATIONAL HEALTH, AND OCEAN CONSERVATION PROGRAMS ARE OF SIGNIFICANT INTEREST TO VARIOUS US TECHNICAL AGENCIES.

F. COMMUNICATION AND SPACE TECHNOLOGY -

ARGENTINE HAS AN AGREEMENT WITH NASA FOR LANDSAT II PARTICIPATION. THE GOA IS IN THE PROCESS OF LETTING BIDS

FOR AN EARTH STATION FOR LANDSAT II NEAR MAR DEL PLATA.  
ANOTHER AGREEMENT HAS RECENTLY BEEN CONCLUDED BETWEEN THE  
UNITED STATES GEOLOGICAL SURVEY, THE NATIONAL OCEANOGRAPHIC  
AND ATMOSPHERIC AGENCY, AND THE ARGENTINE SPACE COMMISSION  
ON THE EXCHANGE OF METEOROLOGICAL INFORMATION, CLIMATE CHANGES,  
ETC. COMMUNICATION SATELLITES ARE ON THE ARGENTINE SPACE  
AGENDA FOR THE FUTURE, AND THEY ARE INTERESTED IN  
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US COOPERATION IN THIS AREA.

G. SCIENTIFIC AND TECHNOLOGICAL COOPERATION -

THE US AND ARGENTINA HAVE AN S&T AGREEMENT THAT HAS RECENTLY  
BEEN RENEWED FOR FIVE YEARS. THE AGREEMENT IS USEFUL IN  
DEVELOPING JOINT COOPERATION RESEARCH PROJECTS IN ALL FIELDS  
OF SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH BETWEEN US ACADEMIC INSTITUTIONS  
AND RESEARCH INSTITUTES IN ARGENTINA. ANOTHER IMPORTANT  
ASPECT OF THE AGREEMENT IS THE EXCHANGE OF SCIENTIFIC  
EXPOERTS AND THE ORGANIZATION OF SCIENTIFIC CONFERENCES  
AND WORKSHOPS ON ITEMS OF MUTUAL INTEREST. THE SCIENCE OFFICE  
ACTS AS COORDINATOR BETWEEN THE US NSF AND ARGENTINE CONICENT  
- THE LEAD AGENCIES INVOLVED.

H. TECHNOLOGY TRANSFER -

BY MEETING WITH BUSINESSMEN AND HOST COUNTRY COUNTERPARTS,  
THE SCIENCE OFFICE SUPPORTS THE COMMERCIAL SECTION IN THE  
PROMOTION OF US OPPORTUNITIES, PARTICULARLY IN HIGH TECHNOLOGY  
PRODUCTS AND ARRANGING CHANNELS OF COMMUNICATION. RECENT  
EXAMPLES INCLUDE COOPERATION WITH THE COMMERCIAL SECTION  
ON THE VISIT OF A GENERAL ATOMICS REPRESENTATIVE TO DISCUSS  
LOW ENRICHED URANIUM FUEL SALES TO CNEA AND DISCUSSIONS WITH  
SPACE COMMISSION OFFICIALS RELATIVE TO THE GENERAL ELECTRIC  
BID FOR THE LANDSAT EARTH STATION TO BE BUILT NEAR MAR DEL  
PLATA. THE UN CONFERENCE ON TECHNICAL COOPERATION AMONG  
DEVELOPING COUNTRIES WILL BE HELD IN BUENOS AIRES IN  
AUGUST 1978. THIS CONFERENCE MAY DEVELOP SOME NEW IDEAS  
FOR TECHNOLOGY CONCERNING THE PROBLEMS OF TRANSFERS  
AMONG THE DEVELOPED AND DEVELOPING NATIONS.

I. HEALTH AND NUTRITION -

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THE ARGENTINE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL WELFARE (PUBLIC HEALTH

SERVICE) AND THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH, EDUCATION, AND WELFARE (US PUBLIC HEALTH SERVICE) ARE IN THE PROCESS OF NEGOTIATING A MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING INVOLVING CO-OPERATION IN THE DEVELOPMENT OF HEALTH RESEARCH PROJECTS OF MUTUAL INTEREST. THIS AGREEMENT INCLUDES FOOD TECHNOLOGY AS IT PERTAINS TO THE HEALTH ASPECTS. THE SCIENCE OFFICE ACTS AS A LIAISON BETWEEN THE TWO AGENCIES FOR THIS AGREEMENT AND REPORTS ON JOINT RESEARCH OPPORTUNITIES OF INTEREST TO DHEW.

J. ARMS TECHNOLOGY AND DISARMAMENT -  
FROM THE S&T POINT OF VIEW, THIS SUBJECT IS PRIMARILY DEALT WITH IN THE CONTEXT OF NUCLEAR NON-PROLIFERATION AS EXPRESSED ABOVE. THE SCIENCE COUNSELOR MAINTAINS CONTINUAL CONTACT WITH THE DISARMAMENT POLICIES OF THE GOA THROUGH THE OFFICE OF AMBASSADOR ORTIZ DE ROZAS WHO IS IN CHARGE OF DISARMAMENT AND NUCLEAR MATTERS FOR THE MFA. IN REGARD TO ARMS TECHNOLOGY, THIS IS MOSTLY HANDLED THROUGH THE MILITARY ATTACHES AND MILITARY GROUP OF THE EMBASSY. A STAFF AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE ARGENTINE NAVAL SERVICE FOR RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT (SENID) AND THE US OFFICE OF NAVAL RESEARCH COVERS BILATERAL COOPERATION IN S&T AREAS OF MUTUAL INTEREST. THE AGREEMENT COVERS SUCH AREAS AS ACOUSTIC PROPAGATION, SHIP DESIGN, DEEP DIVING, INFRARED SEARCH, AND WEAPONS TECHNOLOGY. THE EMBASSY SCIENCE OFFICE HAS CLOSE CONTACT WITH THE NAVAL R&D SERVICE TO DISCUSS MUTUAL INTERESTS AND POSSIBLE AREAS OF COOPERATION.

K. TECHNOLOGICAL ASPECTS OF TERRORISM -  
ARGENTINA, HAVING EXPERIENCED INTERNAL MASS TERRORISM ACTIVITIES FOR THE PAST TWO YEARS, CERTAINLY HAS GAINED A GREAT DEAL OF EXPERIENCE IN URBAN OPERATIONAL TERRORIST ACTIVITY. IT HAS ALSO ESTABLISHED A SOPHISTICATED INTELLIGENCE OPERATION, THE LATEST INNOVATION BEING THE CONFIDENTIAL

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INSTALLATION OF A COMPUTERIZED IDENTIFICATION SYSTEM FOR ENTRY. THE GOA, WE FEEL, WOULD BE EAGER TO PARTICIPATE

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DOEE-00 /082 W

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AND EVEN TAKE A LEADERSHIP ROLE IN INTERNATIONAL EFFORTS  
AGAINST TERRORISM, EITHER INSTITUTIONALIZED OR TECHNOLOGICAL.

L. POPULATION ISSUES -

ARGENTINA HAS A REVERSE POPULATION PROBLEM, HAVING 1/3  
OF THE APPROXIMATE 26 MILLION POPULATION CENTER IN THE  
BUENOS AIRES METROPOLITAN AREA, AND THE SOUTH AND NORTH AREAS  
OF THE COUNTRY HAVING A VERY LOW DENSITY OF POPULATION. THE  
CRUDE RATE OF POPULATION GROWTH IN 1975 WAS 1.35 PERCENT.  
THIS LOW POPULATION DENSITY IN NATURAL RESOURCES-RICH  
AREAS IS A MAJOR PROBLEM IN THE EXPLOITATION OF ARGENTINA'S  
ENORMOUS NATURAL RESOURCES. IT HAS ALSO LEAD TO A SLOWDOWN  
OF INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT OUTSIDE OF THE BUENOS AIRES/ROSARIO  
INDUSTRIAL COMPLEX. THE EXTREMELY HIGH DENSITY OF POPULATION  
IN THE BUENOS AIRES AREA CONTRIBUTES ALSO TO MASS  
ENVIRONMENTAL PROBLEMS SUCH AS SHORTAGE OF FRESH  
DRINKING WATER, A MAJOR AIR POLLUTION PROBLEM, SOLID WASTE  
DISPOSAL, AND OCCUPATIONAL HEALTH HAZARDS. MANY PLANS HAVE  
BEEN DEVELOPED ON THE REDISTRIBUTION OF POPULATION BY THE  
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MINISTRY OF PLANNING, BUT VERY LITTLE HAS BEEN ACCOMPLISHED  
AND BUENOS AIRES IS STILL GROWING AT A RAPID RATE. HEALTH  
SERVICES IN THE RURAL AREAS OF THE COUNTRY ARE ALSO EXTREMELY  
INADEQUATE AND WATERBORNE DISEASES, CHAGAS DISEASE, AND  
HEMORRHAGIC FEVER ARE RAMPANT. (RESEARCH ON THESE  
DISEASES IS COVERED IN THE US/ARGENTINE PROPOSED HEALTH  
AGREEMENT MENTIONED ABOVE.)

M. NEW TRENDS IN TECHNOLOGICAL INNOVATION -

TECHNOLOGICAL INNOVATION PERTAINING TO NUCLEAR ENERGY HAS

BEEN A TOPIC OF CONTINUOUS REPORTING BY THE SCIENCE SECTION AND INCLUDES REACTOR RESEARCH, FUEL ELEMENT PRODUCTION, ISOTOPE RADIATION RESEARCH, AND URANIUM MINING TECHNOLOGY. US SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY EXPENDITURES IN ARGENTINA BY THE USG AND PRIVATE INDUSTRY HAVE BEEN REPORTED ON A PERIODIC BASIS. MORE CONCENTRATION IN THE FUTURE SHOULD BE PLACED IN SUPPORT OF THE ECONOMIC SECTION ON THE INNOVATION OF OTHER TECHNOLOGIES.

N. NARCOTIC INFORMATION SYSTEMS -

THE DHEW/MINISTRY OF SOCIAL WELFARE HEALTH COOPERATION AGREEMENT CONTAINS PROPOSALS FOR RESEARCH ON NARCOTIC ABUSE IN ARGENTINA AND WAYS AND MEANS OF CONTROL TREATMENT AND PREVENTION. OTHER AREAS DEALING WITH INFORMATION SYSTEMS, COMMUNICATIONS, AND CONTROL OF NARCOTIC TRAFFIC ARE HANDLED BY THE DEA SECTION OF THE EMBASSY.

O. OTHER MISCELLANEOUS ACTIVITIES -

THE SCIENCE OFFICE IS RESPONSIBLE FOR OBTAINING GOA CLEARANCES FOR US OCEANOGRAPHIC VESSELS CONDUCTING RESEARCH  
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IN ARGENTINE WATERS AND THE MALVINAS ISLANDS. THIS INCLUDES THE NSF-SPONSORED RESEARCH VESSEL ISLAS OCCADAS THAT CARRIES OUT JOINT RESEARCH WITH THE ARGENTINE NAVAL HYDROGRAPHIC INSTITUTE, AND THE USS HERO WHICH IS DOCKED IN USHUAIA FOR THE NSF ANTARCTIC ACTIVITIES, AND CONDUCTS RESEARCH ALONG THE ARGENTINE AND CHILIAN COASTS. THE SCI COUNS REPRESENTS THE US AT SCIENTIFIC CONFERENCES AND ASSISTS US DELEGATION ATTENDING MEETINGS IN ARGENTINA, SUCH AS THE US ANTARCTIC TREATY MEETING IN JULY AND THE UN TCDC CONFERENCE IN AGUSUT. THERE IS A CLOSE WORKING RELATIONSHIP WITH THE ICA CULTURAL EXCHANGE PROGRAMS FOR THE FUNDING OF ARGENTINE EXPERTS TO VISIT THE US AND FOR US EXPERTS, PARTICULARLY IN THE ENERGY FIELD, TO VISIT ARGENTINA. TWO CNEA EXPERTS HAVE BEEN APPROVED THIS YEAR TO VISIT US NUCLEAR FACILITIES, ONE BEING THE DIRECTOR OF THE CNEA REACTOR PROGRAMS.

2. THE EMBASSY SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY SECTION NOW CONSISTS OF A COUNSELOR FOR SCIENTIFIC AND TECHNOLOGICAL AFFAIRS, A HALF-TIME AMERICAN SECRETARY AND A HALF-TIME PROGRAM ASSISTANT. THIS LIMITED STAFF MAKES IT DIFFICULT TO HANDLE EFFECTIVELY MANY OF THE IMPORTANT GLOBAL ISSUES DESCRIBED ABOVE AND TO PREPARE FOR THE DEPARTMENT AND OTHER USG TECHNICAL AGENCIES THE PERCEPTIVE ASSESSMENTS AND DETAILED MATERIAL REQUIRED TO MAKE DECISIONS AND TAKE THE NECESSARY ACTION. THE EMBASSY SCIENCE COUNSELOR ALSO HAS REGIONAL CONSULTATION RESPONSIBILITIES IN ENERGY MATTERS AND GENERAL S&T

ACTIVITIES IN CHILE, PERU, BOLIVA, PARAGUAY, AND URUGUAY.

3. IN ORDER TO GIVE ADEQUATE COVERAGE TO THE IMPORTANT GLOBAL ISSUES DESCRIBED ABOVE THE EMBASSY RECOMMENDS THE FOLLOWING ADDITIONAL PERSONNEL FOR THE OFFICE OF THE SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGICAL COUNSELOR: A FULL-TIME JUNIOR FSO WITH SOME BACKGROUND EXPERIENCE OR SHORT-TERM TRAINING IN S&T ACTIVITIES, A FULL-TIME AMERICAN SECRETARY AND A FULL-TIME LOCAL PROGRAM ASSISTANT. THIS, IN EFFECT, WOULD BE ADDING ONE AMERICAN AND ONE LOCAL POSITION. SPACE  
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ARRANGEMENTS FOR AN EXPANDED S&T OFFICE CAN BE HANDLED WITH SOME ADJUSTMENTS, IN THE EMBASSY FRAMEWORK.  
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## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 jan 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** SCIENCE ATTACHES, PROGRAMS (PROJECTS)  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 08 jun 1978  
**Decaption Date:** 01 jan 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 20 Mar 2014  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
**Document Number:** 1978BUENOS04388  
**Document Source:** CORE  
**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** n/a  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** GS  
**Errors:** N/A  
**Expiration:**  
**Film Number:** D780240-0375  
**Format:** TEL  
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**Original Classification:** CONFIDENTIAL  
**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
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**Page Count:** 8  
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**Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
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**Retention:** 0  
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**Review Event:**  
**Review Exemptions:** n/a  
**Review Media Identifier:**  
**Review Release Date:** n/a  
**Review Release Event:** n/a  
**Review Transfer Date:**  
**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
**SAS ID:** 2443303  
**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** NATIVE  
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**TAGS:** AFSP, TGEN, XM, AR  
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**Review Markings:**  
Sheryl P. Walter  
Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
20 Mar 2014  
**Markings:** Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014